

New Tree Protection Ordinances for Construction Zones

excerpted from: www.cityofmadison.com/streets/urban-forestry/tree-protection-ordinances

The Madison Common Council passed updates to strengthen protections for City street trees. These updates went into effect on January 1. There are three core features to the updates.



1. Increasing the Protection Zone Around Street Trees in Construction Areas

The previous rules required a protection zone of five feet around trees in construction areas. That has proven to be insufficient, especially for mature trees. Starting on January 1, 2026, for every inch of a tree trunk's diameter, there will be one foot of tree protection zone required. For example, if there is a tree with a 20-inch diameter within a project area, a contractor must maintain a 20-foot protection zone around the tree. Also, if there is a tree with a 5-inch diameter or less within a project area, contractors must maintain a 5-foot protection zone. The ordinance allows the tree protection zone to be increased or decreased with direct approval of Urban Forestry and Engineering.

2. Suspending or Revoking Permits for Tree Protection Violations

Under the old rules, if trees are harmed contrary to approved plans, or if protection zones are violated, contractors can be fined. The new rules keep fines in place, add full cost to remove and replace the tree, and include a new mechanism to ensure compliance. Violations of the tree protection rules within approved plans can lead to the suspension or revocation of necessary street occupancy permits. Removing permits will stop aspects of the project dependent on these permits until the tree protection issue can be resolved either with Urban Forestry or on appeal at the Board of Public Works.

3. Establishes a Street Tree Replacement Fund

This creates a mechanism where Madison can be made whole if street tree removal is proven necessary for a project. Tree removal and replacement is an option of last resort. If there is agreement between Urban Forestry and the developer/contractor that a street tree cannot be saved, the entity removing the tree will pay into a tree replacement fund equal to the value of the removed tree so Urban Forestry can improve the City's canopy elsewhere.



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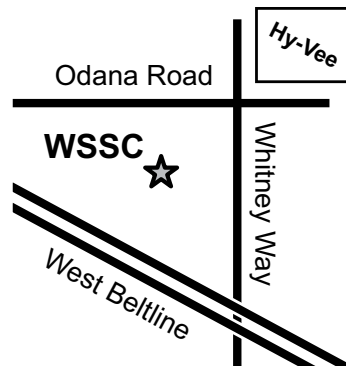
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Hello Skaters! The Sunset Park Ice Rink is Open

submitted by Brant Olson, December 30, 2025

Thanks to a Wisconsin winter with colder temperatures so far, we've been able to get the Sunset Park ice rink open a bit earlier, and other than the recent warm/rainy stretch over the holiday week, have had skaters enjoying the rink since early December. We're hoping for continued consistent below-freezing temps through January and February so we can enjoy a good long skating season.



As a friendly reminder, when we do need to close the rink due to warmer weather or standing water, the rink will be roped off and Closed signs are put up. PLEASE keep kids and pets off the rink when it's closed, as slushy footprints can make it difficult to return the ice to good skating conditions when things cool back down.

You can check the status of the rink here: www.cityofmadison.com/parks/find-a-park/facilities/iceRink.cfm?id=24 Sometimes there's a short delay in getting the web page updated, so please respect the ropes and signage and stay off the rink if they're up, even if the web site shows the rink is open.

The Sunset Park ice rink is a community-owned asset, managed under the city's Adopt Ice program. Under the program, neighborhood volunteers are responsible for the setup and takedown, ice resurfacing and maintenance, and water. Annually, we incur around \$300 in expenses, mostly for water (provided by some generous neighbors adjacent to the rink), and the occasional replacement part. Small donations to keep this great community resource going are greatly appreciated - you can use the Venmo QR code to contribute - thank you!



If you'd like to contribute but don't use Venmo, or are interested in helping out with the rink in other ways - we can always use more "human Zambonis!" - please contact brantolson@hotmail.com.

Thank you! -Sunset Park Ice Rink Volunteers (Jason, Matt, Tim, and Brant)

2025 Halloween Parade in Sunset Park—"It was a great year"

Photos by co-organizer, Erin Courtenay, who says, "It was a great year." And co-organizer, Alice Yuroff, says, "I think it might be time for fresh energy for this event. I would love another person or two so I can eventually pass the torch." If you are interested in helping to organize the 2026 Halloween parade, please contact Alice at alice@yuroff.com





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NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

SVCA Winter Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 6:45 p.m., Sequoia Library
Zoom link will be on the Google Group

Hoyt Park Winter Event/Sledding Party

TBD (late January), www.hoytpark.org



Easter Egg Hunt in Sunset Park

Sunday, April 5, 2:00 p.m. To help set up,
contact Alexa Shore, ajshore100@gmail.com

Midvale-Lincoln Rummage Sale

Saturday, April 11, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Lincoln School, 909 Sequoia Trail

Winter Life



Advertise in the Village Voice!

*Reach 1100+ households, area businesses
and the Sequoia Library.*

Business Card size (3.5x2):

\$36 for 1 issue and \$130 for 4 issues

Quarter Page size (3.5x4.5):

\$72 for 1 issue and \$260 for 4 issues

Half Page size (7.5x4.5):

\$110 for 1 issue and \$396 for 4 issues

Deadline for newsletters:

January 5, April 5, July 5, October 5

*Send ads as jpgs or pdfs to Clark at
clarkkellogg65@yahoo.com*

*Mail contributions, dues, or ad payments to:
SVCA, P.O. Box 5635, Madison, WI 53705*

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

Pet Sit, Dog Walk, Babysit

Finnoulay Kaump Luedtke is 17. She is an experienced dog handler of both bully and small breeds. She is available for dog walking and pet sitting services. Finnoulay is also completing her American Red Cross Babysitters course and available for baby/Kid sitting! She can be reached at 773.426.1123 or Cynthia.Kaump@gmail.com

Pet Sitting, Babysitting

Fun, responsible, 17-year-old, Malcolm Shabazz HS senior in Sunset Village available for babysitting and pet sitting. American Red Cross certified in Babysitting and Child Care. Experienced camp counselor and life guard. Loves kids! References available. Text or call Charlie at 608-209-3765

Dog-walking, Pet-sitting and Babysitting

Hi, I am a West HS junior who wants to take care of your kids and pets! I have completed the Red Cross babysitting course and can speak Spanish. Please contact Iris Wayland at wayland@tds.net or (608) 598-9816 if you are interested.

Snow shoveling, Spring mulch and Summer lawn mowing

I'm a 15yr old that lives near Hillcrest and Westmorland Blvd.
Text or call (608) 722-8992 for a quote!

Pet Care

I'm William - a 12 year old kid that loves animals, especially dogs. I am available for walking dogs or simple pet care activities if you are busy or want some extra love for your pet. You can text my mom for information 608-770-3783.

Sunset Village Neighborhood Book Club

Meet your neighbors, enjoy great conversation, and discuss a wide range of books. Contact Linda Fahy, lbfahy_27@hotmail.com

Your neighborhood info:

Co-Presidents: Jonathan Becker & James Ream 262-332-0500
info@sunsetvillagecommunity.org

Secretary: Anne Badey Raffa, dancinthrulife14@gmail.com

Treasurer: Rich Kedzior, rkedz@hotmail.com

Newsletter Editors: Liz Vowles 608-658-9726, lizlloyd@chorus.net & Clark Kellogg, clarkkellogg65@yahoo.com

Neighborhood Website: www.sunsetvillagecommunity.org

Online Message Board: <https://groups.google.com/g/sunsetvillagecommunityassociation>

District 5 Alder: Regina Vidaver, district5@cityofmadison.com
608-616-0669, www.cityofmadison.com/council/district5/

County Board: Richelle Andrae, 414-469-6664

Andrae.Richelle@CountyofDane.com

www.facebook.com/Richelle4DaneCounty

Facebook page: "Sunset Village Community Association"